

# MILWAUKEE HOMICIDE REVIEW COMMISSION

www.milwaukee.gov/hrc

Fall 2011

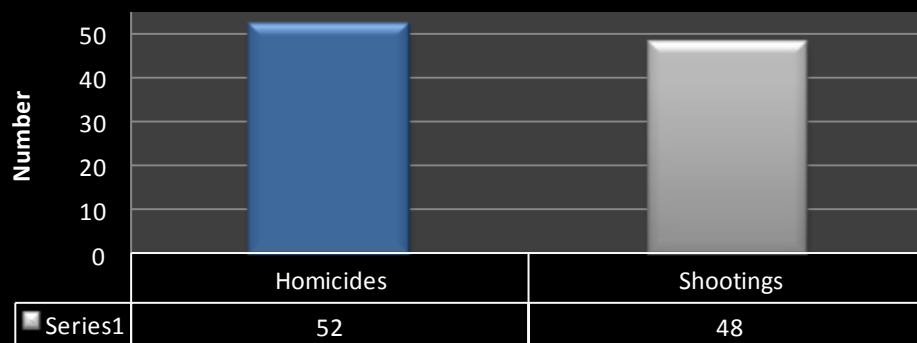
\*\*\*NEW\*\*\*

## Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission Online Newsletter

Starting this year, the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) will distribute an online newsletter to provide partners with an update on homicide and shooting trends, and the Commission and its partner's violence prevention work. This is the first edition and it is dedicated to intimate partner violence. To learn more about the data presented in this issue or to request violence-related data, you can contact us at 414-935-7985 or [nrobin@milwaukee.gov](mailto:nrobin@milwaukee.gov).

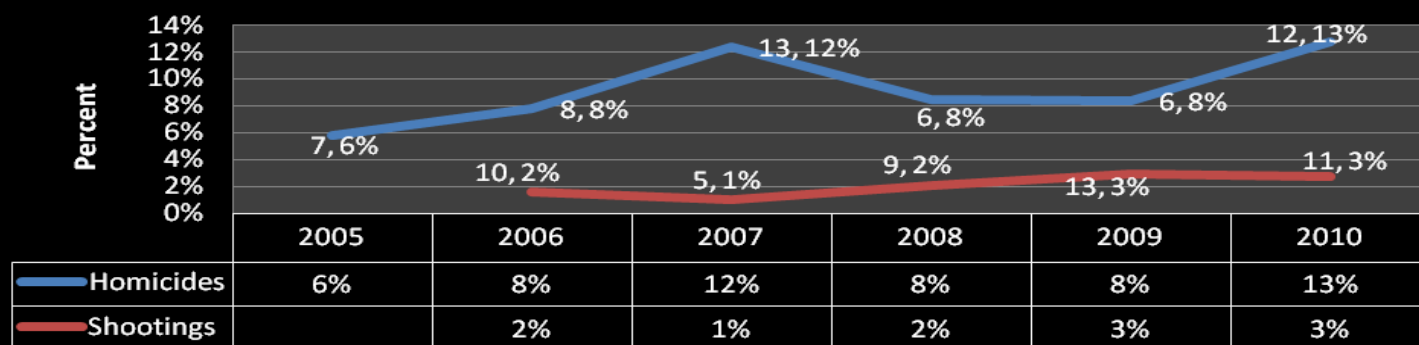
**Methodology:** The findings presented in this newsletter come from an analysis of Milwaukee intimate partner-related homicides and shootings that took place between 2005-2010. Intimate partner-related homicides and shootings include only those cases where the individuals involved had an intimate relationship at some point. It does not include other cases under the domestic violence statutory definition such as roommate situations. The MHRC tracks Milwaukee homicides and shootings using a model similar to the U.S. National Violent Death Reporting System (NVDRS).

### Number of IPV Homicide and Shooting Victims



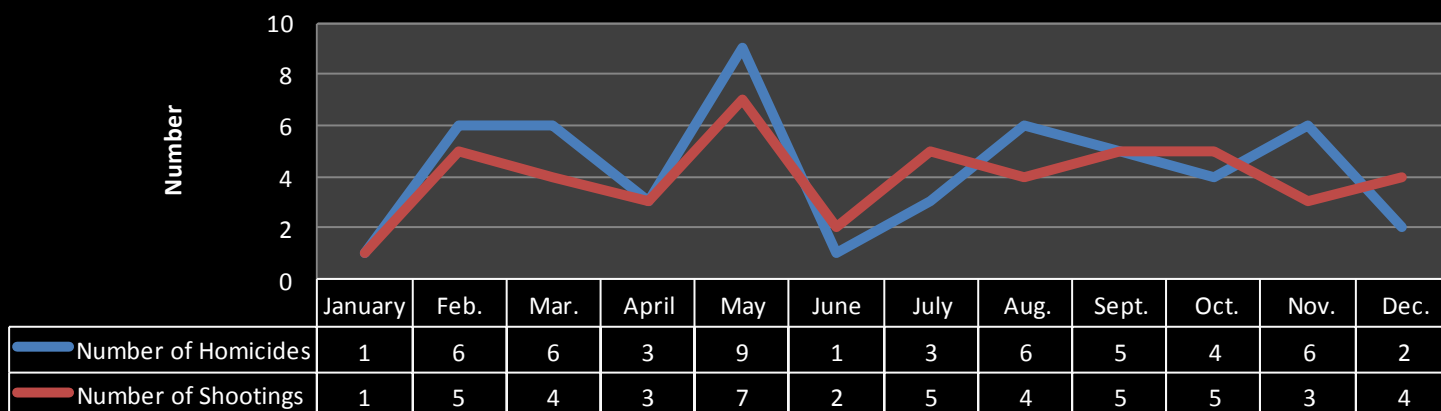
Between 2005-2010 there were 52 intimate partner homicides and between 2006-2010 there were 48 intimate partner nonfatal shootings.

### Percent of IPV Homicides and Shootings



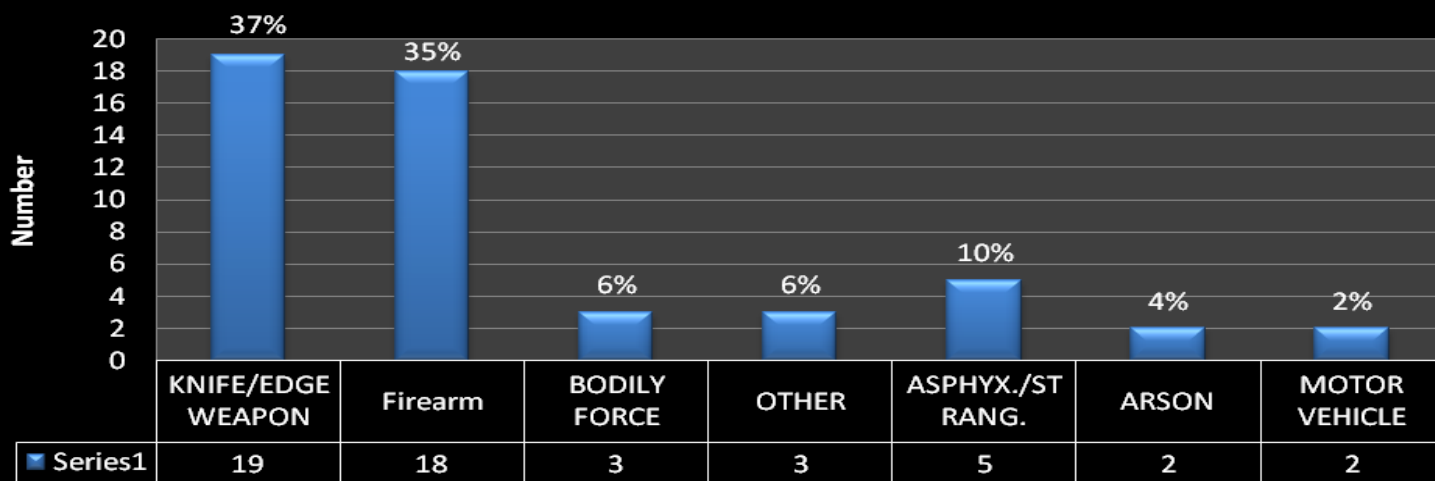
The annual percentage of intimate partner homicides has nearly doubled from 6% in 2005 to 13% in 2010. The annual percentage of intimate partner shootings has remained consistent making up 1% to 3% of all shooting incidents. **As of 10/31/11, the number of 2011 IPV homicides has decreased nearly 50% as a result of the partner work described on pages 5-6.** Note: IPV is intimate partner violence. Shooting data not collected until 2006.

### Number of IPV Homicides and Shootings by Month



From 2005-2010, intimate partner homicides occurred each month (same trend for 2006-2010 shootings). The month of May had the most number of intimate partner homicides and shootings compared to January, which had the fewest number of victims.

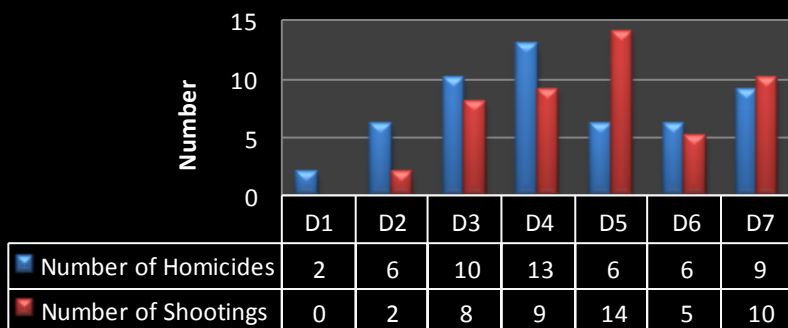
### 2005-2010 Intimate Partner Homicide Weapon/Cause

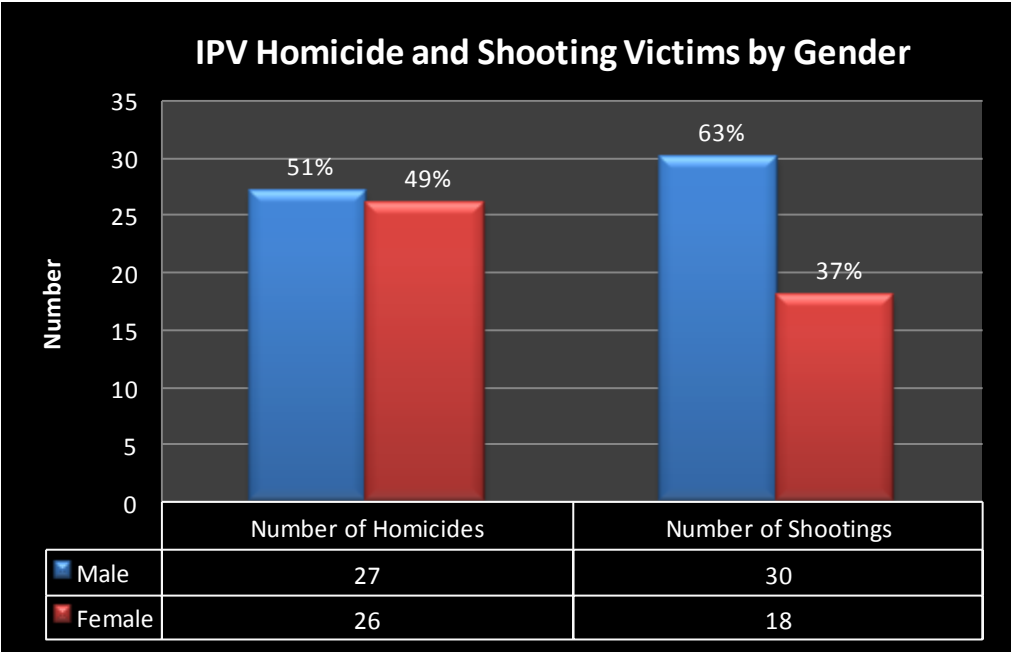


From 2005-2010, the top three weapons used in intimate partner homicides included: Knife/Edge weapon (19, 37%), Firearm (18, 35%) and Asphyxiation/Strangulation (5, 10%).

During the same time period, Police Districts 3 and 4 had the most number of intimate partner homicides and Police Districts 5 and 7 had the most number of intimate partner shootings. See chart on the right.

### IPV Homicides and Shootings by Police District

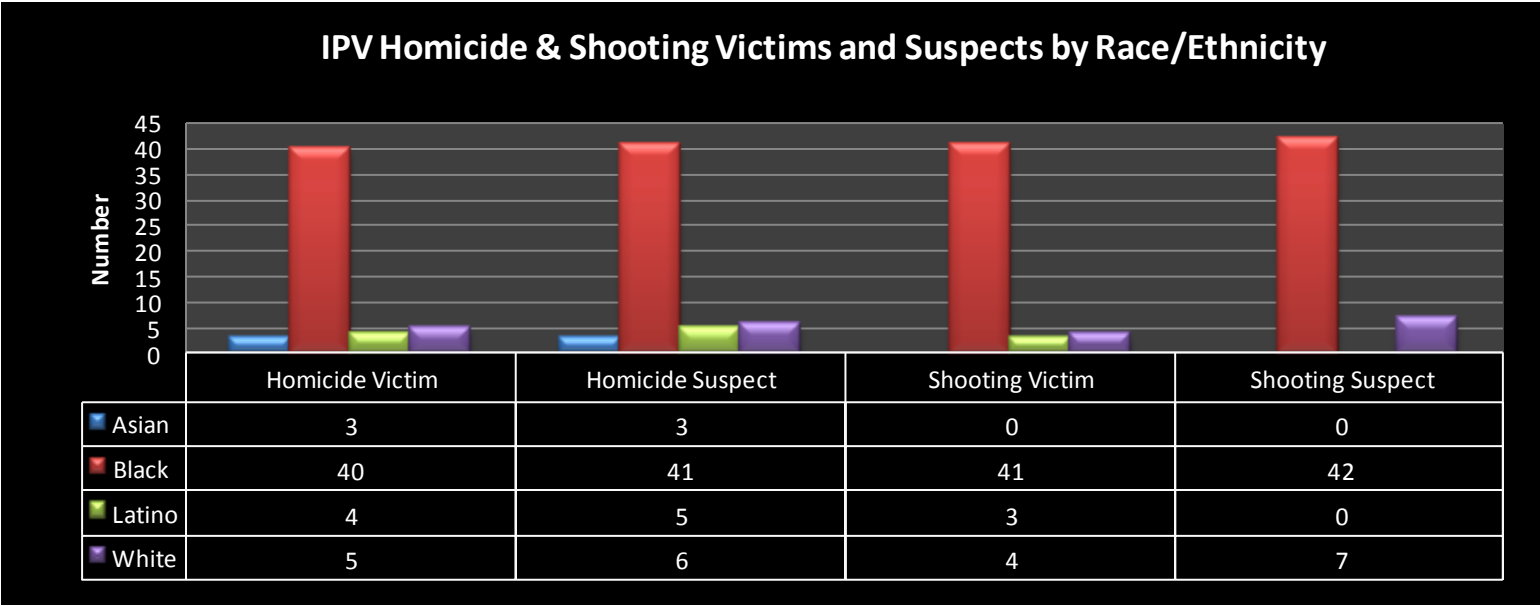




Contrary to popular perception, a slight majority of intimate partner homicide victims were male (27, 51%); females (26, 49%). More intimate partner nonfatal shooting victims were male (30, 63%) compared to female victims (18, 37%). The vast majority of intimate partner homicide and shooting suspects are male. *See chart below.*

Gender	Homicide Suspect		Shooting Suspect	
Male	41	75%	44	90%
Female	14	25%	5	10
Total	55	100%	49	100%

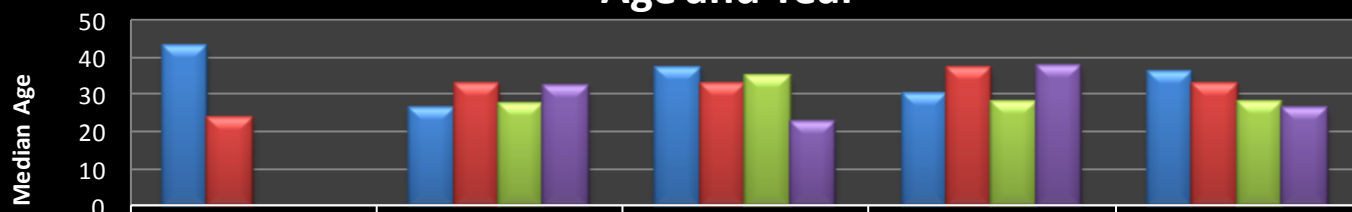
Male IPV victims include a new intimate partner (e.g., new boyfriend), male relatives, and friends of the initial victim involved in the abusive relationship.



Each year from 2005-2010, Black females and Black males made up the overwhelming majority of intimate partner homicide and shooting victims and suspects compared to Asian, Latino, and White victims and suspects. That is, 76% of homicide victims and 74% of homicide suspects are Black and 85% of intimate partner shooting victims and 86% of shooting suspects are Black.

Three out of four Intimate partner homicide and shooting victims are Black. The same trend is true for intimate partner homicide and shooting suspects.

## Homicide and Shooting Victims and Suspects by Median Age and Year



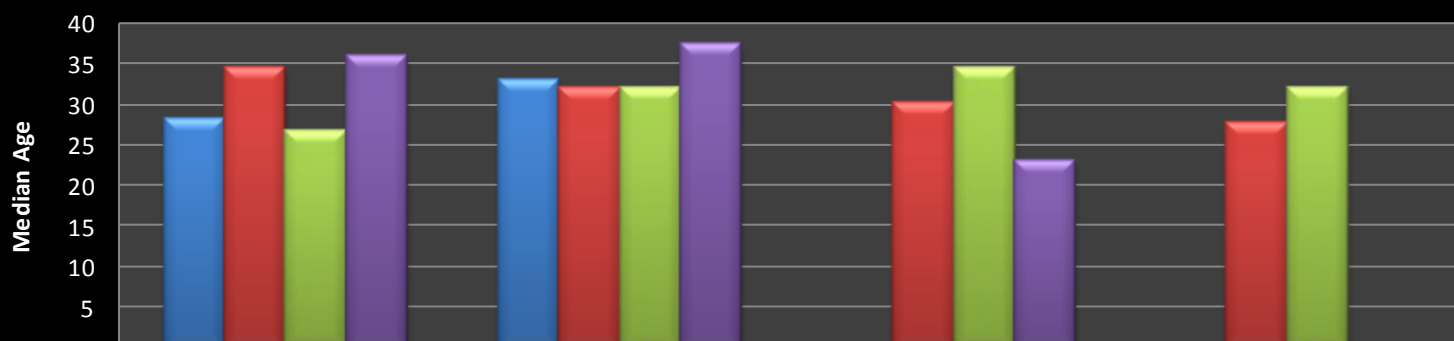
Homicide Victim	43
Homicide Suspect	23.5
Shooting Victim	
Shooting Suspect	

2005	2006	2007	2008	2010
43	26	37	30	36
23.5	32.5	32.5	37	32.5
	27.5	35	28	28
	32	22.5	37.5	26

From 2005-2010, the average intimate partner homicide victim was 34.5 years. The youngest victim was 15 and the oldest victim was 69. During the same period, the average intimate partner shooting victim was 33 years. The youngest victim was 16 and the oldest victim was 70 (very similar to the age range of homicide victims). Intimate partner homicide victims and suspects are generally older than shooting victims and suspects.

*Note: Shooting data not collected until 2006.*

## Homicide and Shooting Victims and Suspects by Median Age and Race



	Homicide Victim	Homicide Suspect	Shooting Victim	Shooting Suspect
Asian	28	33	0	0
Black	34.5	32	30	27.5
Latino	26.5	32	34.5	32
White	36	37.5	23	0

Asian (median age 28) and Latino (26.5 years) intimate partner homicide victims were slightly younger than Black (34.5 years) and White (36 years) homicide victims. White shooting victims (median age 23) were younger than Black (30 years) and Latino (34.5 years) intimate partner shooting victims.



**Sojourner Family Peace Center (SFPC)** is holding internal homicide reviews to assess and refine organizational practices and procedures. Some of the results from these reviews include developing a timeline of services accessed by the client and a similar timeline of DV incidents to assess care and response, developing and implementing a lethality assessment tool, and instituting a case analysis process on complicated cases, which permits SFPC to share a concise record of all public information with systems partners.



**Milwaukee Police Department (MPD)** in partnership with several community partners is setting up a process to identify repeat DV offenders and initiate proactive strategies to get survivors connected with services and to assist offenders with accessing treatment. MPD is also doing “knock and talks” with residents. MPD and partners are working to have DV advocates (staffed by SFPC) onsite at each police district and increase the number of DV advocates.



The **Christian Woman Perspective Ministries (CWP)** is now issuing a quarterly newsletter. The newsletter provides a critical analysis of domestic violence using a Christian framework. You can sign up to receive the newsletter on their website at [www.cwpministries.com](http://www.cwpministries.com).

Reverend Alice Belcher, Founder and Director of the CWP Ministries COGIC Inc. and Isaiah's Coalition for Women and Children Alice, was just named Commissioner of the City of Milwaukee's Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.



The **Milwaukee LGBT Community Center's Anti-Violence Project** led a project at the 2011 PrideFest. The goal of project was to help people express what lies beneath their anger and address attitudes and norms. The format used “*When you...I feel...Please...*”. Examples include: “When you scream and yell at me, I feel disrespected and little. Please talk to me calmly...”; “When you harass me on the street, I feel unsafe and objectified. Please STOP! I am a person, not an object...”. Some positive sentiments also were expressed such as “When you smile at me, I feel like I’m not alone. Please never lose your smile!” Responses were often touching, funny, serious, or a mixture of all three. AVP Coordinator Maryann Gorski repeated the exercise at the public HIV Awareness event at the Hillside Boys and Girls Club over the summer.



**The Alma Center, Inc.** and partners are working on a prevention strategy to assist family, friends, neighbors, and other bystanders caught in the middle of a domestic violence incident between two intimate partners. The strategy will help develop messaging, referral, and other intervention options necessary to support Milwaukee residents dealing with the affects of domestic violence. Nationally the DV field has recognized the unique needs of this group and are calling such strategies “bystander intervention.”



Funded by the Wisconsin Office of Justice Assistance, the **Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission (MHRC) and partners** are now conducting a review of all “near fatal” intimate partner battery incidents that involve strangulation (felony cases only). The reviews started as a result of Wisconsin’s new strangulation law, Wisconsin Act 127 (2007; available at <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/2007/data/acts/07Act127.pdf>) and research indicating a person who is strangled by their partner is 10 times more likely to be murdered compared to other DV battery victims. Several reviews have been held this year, resulting in the following recommendations:

- Train police officers on the new strangulation law.
- Survey victims that do not appear for court to identify potential supports needed to assist the victim with the court process.
- Begin asking DV victim’s about history of strangulation during the intake process.
- Develop a protocol to alert victims when an offender on supervision absconds or cuts off their monitoring bracelet.
- Review policies requiring DV offenders to provide verification when s/he has surrendered their firearm(s) prior to being released on supervision.



The Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Commission, based in the Milwaukee Health Department is a government venue for appointed public, private and community stakeholders to develop collaborative approaches to support children, youth, and families affected by domestic and sexual violence in Milwaukee. When different members of the community coordinate efforts to protect victims and to hold abusers accountable, these efforts are more successful. In 2011-2012, staff will work with the Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission to oversee implementation of MHRC domestic violence-related recommendations.



## MHRC 2011 Sponsors

The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission under subcontract with the City of Milwaukee Health Department and the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS Office) is administering the National Homicide Review Training & Technical Assistance Project. The goal of the project is to deliver training and technical assistance to urban jurisdictions interested in using the homicide review process. Four Milwaukee-based trainings took place in 2011. Two local businesses, **ProDriver Leasing Systems, Inc.** and **McCormick Law Office**, sponsored the breakfast for the November 2011 training, which was attended by 33 criminal justice professionals (e.g., Chief of Police, Police Captains, U.S. Attorney, District Attorney, etc.) from throughout the country including California, Texas, Florida, Michigan, and Alabama. The Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission is thankful to ProDriver Leasing Systems, Inc. and McCormick Law Office for their contribution and on-going support to make the National Homicide Review Training and Technical Assistance Project a success!



**1-866-*PRO* -DRIV**

**President & CEO, Chris Schmus**

The company is headquartered in Milwaukee, WI and has additional branch locations in Appleton, Sheboygan and Chicago. ProDriver also offers driver pool management, on-call drivers, equipment moving, expedited freight delivery and driveway services

